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Between the Lines

The Christian Layman's News Bulletin

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To Our Subscribers:

This is the second issue of the CHARLES A. WELLS CHRISTIAN LAYMAN'S NEWS BULLETIN *Between the Lines.* As stated in the last issue, we are hoping to provide the busy Christian layman with a method whereby he may, with economy of time and effort, keep himself informed from the Christian viewpoint concerning the more important developments of the current scene. You will note we are using materials sent in by the *Worldover Press.* This is one of the most trustworthy, spiritually-minded uncensored news services available today. We have known and followed its work for years. We will also endeavor to keep before us in survey the large amount of documentary and informative material pouring out of Washington, the stories that are passed along from one pressroom to another but which cannot be published, the utterance of the labor press as well as the releases of the National Manufacturers Association. We will contact returning missionaries and newsmen, besides maintaining our own "listening posts" in important and strategic spots. The next and third issue of *Between the Lines* will be out February 2d and the bulletin will continue to be released regularly every other week. The subscription price, $1.00 a year, may be paid at your convenience between now and February 15th.

The Moral Advantage

By their treacherous initial tactics, the Japanese have thrown away their most important psychological weapon. War is physical but war is also a human experience, reflecting all the facets of the human spirit. The attack on the United States deprived the Japanese of the moral prestige of fighting with honor. It is now written in the mind of every Japanese soldier and citizen that the American fighting man is doing the human, instinctive thing by rising to defend. That quality of defense makes the fighter stronger and the offender weaker. It made Washington unbeatable at Valley Forge, the French unconquerable at Verdun, it has made Hitler retreat in Russia and will defeat Japan in the Pacific. Perhaps it can be called a moral advantage, but whatever you call it, it has written history many times.

Winter and the Russo-German War

Is the press and radio news in America giving us an accurate picture of the war as it now stands? Is our interest being directed toward the Pacific where our forces are engaged in positive and spectacular action, when factually this action is but of secondary importance—or less? Significant events are occuring in the area between western Russia, Smolensk, Kharkov and Berlin. What is happening there now has a tremendous bearing upon the war production program in the United States but the public eye is focussed away from this European state of action. . . . America is being girded for the worst and prepared for the greatest possible effort to defeat the Axis tyrants and put the world aright again and our interest is turned to the Pacific where a military drama—though of comparatively miniature dimensions—inflames the American mind and spirit to a united warlike intensity. *Between The Lines*—while sincerely loyal to American unity—holds that the Christian mind is capable of knowing the truth and receiving that truth in perspective. The Christian mind, armed with that truth, offers a more dependable allegiance to our country and its leaders because it *is* intelligent and aware. Such a foundation will eventually be a stronger support for democratic government than half informed, propaganda-conditioned mass thinking—which often becomes mob thinking. This maintaining of perspective should be the function of both pulpit and Sunday School class in a Christian democracy during war.

Japan can certainly be disposed of if Germany's armed power should collapse, leaving England, China, United States and their Allies free to concentrate on Japan. For the first time since the present war started there are real cracks, ominous cracks appearing in the German armor—especially in the Nazi armor. Or let us say that the German armor, put together by Nazi rivets, is showing signs of strain and increasing weakness in the rivets. The very fact of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor must be recognized as emanating from Germany's desperate need to relieve pressure on her in Europe. It is too early flatly to predict a German collapse, but signs can be read in the German press today which reveals a most important change in German psychology. Gone are the headline boasts that winter would not affect the Nazi advance against Russia. Instead there is whimpering about the severity of the Russian winter and the suffering of the German troops. Column after column pleading for woolen goods, coats and underwear replaces the former boasting. Some of us know that Russian winter . . . if the Nazis are asking for underwear and jackets for men facing weather 57 degrees below, they are in bad shape and it is too late for extra underwear. They should have had two fur lined cover-alls where the underwear is supposed to be. Even a flapping fur coat won't do. The fur must be fastened low around the legs—for if the flap of a usual fur coat opens a little in walking, the cold cannot be endured. A sufferer from a cold, who can't breath through his nose, will die quite quickly in the open at 57 degrees below in Russia when the cold air sweeps through the mouth directly into infected lungs. Russians are seasoned to it, dressed for it, skilled to the care of the body in such conditions. Add to the handicap of the cold the spread of typhus—a weapon of nature which makes all man-made arms seem trivial. Typhus now rages through German-held areas of Eastern Europe. It spreads geometrically as the intense cold makes shivering soldiers huddle close together and typhus-infected lice can move freely from body to body. The German hordes and their conquered victims are doing much more huddling than the acclimated Russian fighters. That explains why more typhus reports pour in from Nazi-held centers than from Russian quarters.

Another sign of the change within—there is a rapid decline in Germany of the popular greeting "Heil Hitler." Add this to the open quarrel between Hitler and his generals. Hitler is on his own now— (*Continued on last page*)

Must the Defense Program Buck Monopolies?

All those who have felt that, in patriotic loyalty, we should interfere in no way, not even by questions, with the gigantic national effort to put industry into its necessary war production stride, will be interested in the annual report to Congress of the Attorney General's office. We mention it in *Between The Lines* because it is significant information, well known in Washington but played down in the popular press and elsewhere. This report, made by Thurman Arnold, Assistant Attorney General, protests vigorously against the handicaps that a few private business groups and monopolies have forced the defense program to buck. He charges that in the first year of defense effort these business groups have deliberately restricted production and have concealed shortages because they feared the later results of over-production and because they were afraid that real expansion would threaten their ultimate control. He cited figures to bolster his claims: Three-fourths of war contracts last year were let to eighty-six individual concerns, and this concentration made resistance to the defense effort possible, through various evasions and concealed combinations that affected materials, transportation and distribution. Often such activities were carried on by international combines operating under the name of American corporations. He advocated stringent prosecution of the Sherman Act (anti-trust) as a prelude to any effective attempt to enforce price ceilings. His view is that price ceilings will be merely a cloak of protection in the present set-up for those industries which do not want an expansion that will threaten their control after the war. Specific points of attack made by Mr. Arnold include:

1. Attempts by basic industries to hamper expansion which will threaten present control after the war.
2. Attempts to fix coercively prices on government contracts.
3. Attempts to use patents illegally to control the production of basic materials.
4. Restraint of trade in the distribution of the necessities of life by local groups.
5. Erection of trade barriers between one locality and another.
6. Freezing out of independent business men.

A few days after this report to Congress, Mr. Arnold followed it with the charge that the Aluminum Company of America, in agreement with an international cartel, had restricted the production of aluminum in this country. Mr. Arnold said that he did not believe this action was deliberately intended to disarm America (at the same time that Hitler was arming Germany!) but that it was a disastrously short-sighted effort to maintain a profit-level.

Have Labor and Industry Reached an Agreement?

Although the President announced that the recent conference between labor and industry had reached agreement on a labor policy during the war emergency, there was in reality a deadlock which has probably left the labor situation in worse shape than before the conference convened. The three points of agreement as announced, i.e., no strikes or lockouts during the war, settlement of all disputes by peaceful means and a War Labor Board with authority to arbitrate controversies, were accepted as foregone conclusions before the conference began by both sides. The real question the conference faced but failed to settle was what issues would be settled by arbitration. Industry wanted all issues *except* the closed shop to be subject to the Board's arbitration. Labor wanted all issues *including* the closed shop to be settled by the Board. In many circles it is feared that another labor-industry crisis will have to fester before this important point of disagreement is dissolved, for Congressional indignation has been lulled by the apparent solution. It really means, in terms of Christian thought, that the issue of labor's growing power and industry's growing resistance to that power will not be squarely faced until the days of enforced unity are over and both labor and industry are back on a dog eat dog basis. The industrialists will certainly not be in a more cooperative mood when the end of war needs has shut down over half of their facilities for production, nor will labor unions be more conciliatory with half their members unemployed.

In the meantime, the Smith Bill, viciously fought by the labor leaders, has made a strong showing in the House of Representatives where it was passed by a vote of 252 to 136—virtually enough of a margin to outride a veto. This happened just a few days before Pearl Harbor and war news drove it almost into oblivion. But it is a history-making effort of the anti-labor block in Congress to utilize the war emergency to regain for industry some of the control that labor leadership has gained under the New Deal. It has some much needed points in it however—whether you are anti-labor or pro-labor in your sympathies. The bill is so worded as to drive Communists, Bundists and known criminals out of labor leadership. Also it bans "imported" pickets in strikes. The whole country is familiar with the problem of criminal racketeer leadership in labor, but not many realize that imported pickets are labor's answer to imported thugs immediately deputized as "property guards" by industrial owners to use as strike breakers and "picket line smashers." This whole labor question is so difficult, so varied, so important that it should be one of the major concerns of the church and Christian thought today.

Do You Realize That—

A TRIBUTE to the loyalty and courage of the Japanese doctors in Hawaii during the recent bombardment was made by Col. John J. Moorhead, prominent physician and surgeon? Col. Moorhead was just preparing to begin a morning lecture to medical officers in Honolulu on "Wounds, Civil and Military" when the attack began. He and the other doctors attending were summoned for active duty and rushed to the care of the wounded. Both the Japanese surgeons and the predominantly Japanese population worked tirelessly and shared resentment at the attack, according to a letter Dr. Moorhead wrote to his friend Governor Herbert H. Lehman.

THE INFLUENCE of the book "Mission to Moscow" by our former Ambassador to Russia, Joseph E. Davies, will play a major role in the development of American-Russian relations? It is having a wide circulation and is, of course, authoritative. Mr. Davies was in Russia during a significant period,—his term of service beginning with the trial of the sixteen purged leaders, in January of 1937, and ending during that awesome war summer of 1938. He went to Russia without prejudice—viewing many events with great accuracy and forming some logical judgments. He felt that those purged were guilty and went on record, long before the present test, that the Russian

Do You Realize That—

THE INSTITUTE for Propaganda Analysis is an early casualty of the war? After several years of valuable and distinguished service in gathering, analysing and reporting propaganda affecting American life, the Institute was dissolved for obvious reasons. No one would hardly dare analyse propaganda during a war! The accusations that the Institute was Communist were absurd and false originating in the anger aroused among big corporations who lobbied in Washington to influence legislations. Repeatedly their efforts were exposed by bulletins sent out by the Institute to its members and subscribers. The officers and workers in the Institute were nearly all distinguished scholars and professors. It is with real regret that socially minded citizens receive the news of the Institute's untimely end. We will hope it may be revived when saner days return.

THE CIGARETTE business has been dealt a terrific solar plexus punch by ex-champion Gene Tunney in his article on cigarette smoking in the Readers Digest last month? The enormous sums spent in advertising by tobacco companies in the press and on the air have shushed many of the recent findings by medical authorities concerning the effects of cigarette smoking on health. But the Readers

viewing many events with great accuracy and forming some logical judgments. He felt that those purged were guilty and went on record, long before the present test, that the Russian army could hold against Germany and Japan. He reported to our State Department at the time of Munich that appeasement would push Russia into an alliance with Germany. His present view is, first, that the Russians have a right to run their own country in their own way, and second, that many interests will bind Russia and America together in allied action against common enemies. Davies speaks highly of the men at the head of the U.S.S.R. today.

MORE DETAILS and proof have come to America of the extended and revised Nazi plan to make a new "National Church" in Germany? The Hitler sponsored scheme would put an end to any "International Christianity" in Germany and establish paganism in its stead. The plan as it has been promoted by Dr. Alfred Rosenberry, Nazi "faith leader," would ban all religions with connections outside Germany. It would also stop the sale of the Bible, substitute portions of Mein Kampf for scripture reading in the churches and ban the cross from the altars.

IF WE COULD ONLY GET HIM HITCHED TO SOMETHING ELSE

We can no longer say that man is not capable of sacrifice, patience and long suffering. Consider the enormous sacrifices and privations that masses of mankind are enduring today—for causes that are hopeless and futile. Just imagine the kind of a world we could have if we might enlist such cooperation for a constructive purpose! "But why can't we have something like that," some one cries. We do have such programs—and have had for centuries,—where man might devote himself with all his energy and ability to building a better way of life. It is the program of the church, the plan of the gospel. But we have ignored it, called it impractical, idealistic. We accepted low ideals instead, tried to assume that hate and greed were normal things. What a difference it would have made to our world today if we had devoted as much strength to the promotion of truth, justice and brotherhood as we have to war and hate.

bacco companies in the press and on the air have shushed many of the recent findings by medical authorities concerning the effects of cigarette smoking on health. But the Readers Digest carries no ads so it can speak out. All the big billboards show handsome soldiers and their gals smoking cigarettes as the tobacco trusts' answer to Tunney, but these posters will never mend the damage Mr. Tunney administered when he spoke not only as a famous athlete but as a commanding officer in the Navy concerned with health in our defense forces.

A LETTER was made public in Washington from a noted Cleveland financier to Archbishop Cicognani, who is apostolic delegate to the United States, head of the Catholic Church in America and whose offices are in Washington? It asked the Archbishop to use his influence to persuade the Church of Rome to clarify its stand on fascism . . . to come out in open denunciation of the tyrant Axis representation in Italy . . . to appeal to the Italians of Italy to denounce the Axis connections in Rome that the church may not go down in history as standing aloof from a struggle between Christian democracy, German paganism and Japanese Shinto-Buddha-Barbarianism. What we'd like to know is where Russian atheism comes in on such a picture.

Japan Inherits a Mare's Nest

Hong Kong, before the Japanese took it, presented a spectacle of incredible poverty for most of its population and amazing wealth for a few. Special correspondence to the Shanghai *China Weekly Review* describes the island fortress, which the British held for so long and defended so stubbornly, as a cesspool of poverty, disease, and misery. This is no doubt one of the reasons why the occupying Japanese troops have made the British responsible for the maintenance of order. Of the island's million and a half population, 98 per cent are Chinese, and at least a half a million of them have been suffering dire poverty. Prostitution flourishes, while the death rate from diseases due primarily to poverty is extremely high. Malnutrition and unsanitary conditions have been wiping out the population by the thousands annually. Deaths from tuberculosis during the first six months of 1941 alone totalled 3,457, and deaths from pellagra during the same period numbered 768. The annual report of the Director of Medical Services for the year 1940 showed, besides the high rate of tuberculosis, 7,229 deaths from beri-beri (nearly ten times the figure for 1936). In addition, the summer cholera outbreak was attended by a high rate of mortality (66.2 per cent). According to one medical authority in Hong Kong, the mortality rate from tuberculosis on the island is the highest known in the world.

Terrible overcrowding and a general increase in the cost of living by about 150 per cent during the last twelve months, together with the *laissez faire* policy of the Hong Kong authorities which has not permitted anything to be done to tackle the problem at its roots, are causes for the situation. To be sure, charities have striven to mitigate the lot of the poor, and soup kitchens and subsidized unpolished rice have been made available to a few. Japanese occupation can scarcely be expected to improve the situation since supplies are not likely to be diverted from the needs of the Japanese army to feed Hong Kong's hungry. The British who remain on the island and have now been made responsible for keeping order will have no light task.—*Worldover Press*

We can feel only sympathy and admiration for the brave British forces who have fought so valiantly there, but we dare not shut our eyes to the prospects that the Japanese military propagandists will make the most of some aspects of the white man's rule in Asia. Remember the cry of Japan is "Asia for the Asiatics." The Chinese leadership has replied with "China for the Chinese." The Japanese will do their best to discredit the white man where they can. America has reason to be proud of the Philippines in this respect. All travelers to Manila attest that we have kept our promises there to make life better under our rule. We do not mean to apologize for American imperialism where it exists, but we can be honest where it has been sincerely just and decent.

Parasitic Refugees

Many of the refugees who have sought haven in America are doing little good for the cause of their own countries. We refer now not to the Jews but to members of the so-called international set, made up of idlers of all races, some of them blue bloods, some wealthy, some merely hangers-on. They used to congregate on the Riviera, at English country houses and on the Lido. Now they swarm America's fashionable places. With few exceptions, they wouldn't be here if they didn't have money, and they spend it profligately in night clubs where they put on a superior-culture-and-breeding act that offends Americans. In a certain expensive Washington hotel last winter there were more than twenty pet dogs brought over on refugee ships that were not able to carry nearly all the people clamoring for accommodations. A family of American citizens of Danish extraction, caught on a visit to Denmark when that country was occupied were promised passage on the boat that brought over Princess Martha of Sweden, but at the last minute her party was too numerous and the American citizens were left behind. A foreign title moving in social circles in New York complained of being robbed of $20,000. Advised to report the theft, he said, "Oh no, I can't because I smuggled in the money." Another wealthy foreigner died leaving half a million dollars in $10,000 bills in his bank box. Most of these refugees have their assets in cash and thereby evade taxes. The ex-wife of a famous novelist, herself a professional woman of note, lived in a luxurious Park Avenue apartment with two servants apologizing for her modest menage by explaining that she was just a poor refugee. An exclusive furniture store opened a series of exhibition rooms this season featuring their most expensive and rare antiques; among the explanations for such a show at this time was the fact that a great many European refugees with taste and money were here for the duration. In a metropolitan newspaper city room we heard the story of a group of refugees who arrived to take up their abode on a New Jersey farm, bringing along a large collection of boxes in place of trunks. Neighbors thought little of it until officers arrived to investigate—the boxes had locks and hardware of platinum.

The fake titles from various European countries are being fawned on by many socialites, but a society editor promises an expose soon of the phoney nobility in this country, some of whom are said to have prison records. Most Americans feel deep sympathy for suffering Europeans, but they have little use for those who plead tearfully for help at plush benefits who then spend their own money on furs, jewels and luxurious living far beyond the means of Americans from whom they ask aid. We do not want to be intolerant of any victims of the world conflict, but we do feel that deserving sufferers, and the very causes they represent, will be hurt by these swarms of much-talked about and much photographed parasites. Such refugees noisily help themselves to the protection and pleasure of our democracy while they sneer at the very qualities of American thought and faith that have made our way of life possible.

More Taxes!

Here is a glimpse of the tax situation: The government has faced the necessity of raising great sums of money immediately. This has been only partly accomplished by the sale of defense bonds, and that is a temporary solution at most. The National Association of Manufacturers is promoting the idea of a general Federal sales tax payable upon "the last sale of all goods or commodities produced for use or consumption"! In this way a manufacturer would pay a tax on the machine he buys to produce goods, all merchandise made with it being taxed in turn as it is sold to the customer. This is no doubt an effort of the industrialist to forestall any further drastic tax on industrial profits. This plan would include those in the larger income brackets, but it would also reach that group whose incomes, totaling nearly half of our taxable wealth, are individually too small to be reached by the present systems of direct taxation. Now there can be no denying that such a sales tax would fall far more heavily upon those of lower incomes. It is simply a "dressed up" all-over sales tax. When a man must spend all of his income to support his family, any tax that hits him is going to hurt more than any kind of assessment on a $30,000 income. Naturally the well to do are now paying proportionately more but the only alternative is to dig deeper into the low income brackets where every penny is required for the necessities of life. The large incomes may devise the most elaborate plans but the effect will have to be the same. Either they pay more out of their surplus above their needs—or others pay more out of their necessities. No amount of planning will avoid these hard and painful facts.

A Beaverbrook for America

For over a year now the question has been asked in Washington and elsewhere: Why is there not some unit of authority to head up war production? The situation has recently become dangerously acute. As Raymond Clapper has pointed out, "When Churchill, the Prime Minister of England, and Lord Beaverbrook, the Minister of Supply, came to confer in Washington, there was no one for Lord Beaverbrook to talk to!" Our very able President is nominally the fountain head of all our war effort but he is obviously overworked and the result is that confusion increases in all departments of the war production program. "It would take ten Beaverbrooks ten months to get anyplace in Washington," is a direct quotation to us from an OPM man. As citizens we are being asked to surrender everything necessary to a supreme effort for victory. Is it asking too much of our leaders that they also surrender a few choice political attitudes and habits for victory? We as citizens are asked to surrender everything to unity, yet where is there such disunity anywhere in America as in Washington?

Free Speech

On the very day radio programs throughout the country were celebrating the anniversary of the Bill of Rights free speech for one of America's prominent voices was denied. We have never been a member of the Socialist party and we have never voted for Norman Thomas, but in all fairness we recognize that he is an American citizen, an ordained Presbyterian minister, the recipient of honorary degrees from Princeton, and that he has a right to speak. Mr. Thomas had been giving a series of broadcasts on a regular commercial basis. No reason has been given for this cancellation of free speech.

Can't Americans "Take It"?

There has been outspoken criticism in some important places over the fact that the United States War Department has given the American public much less information concerning our "setbacks" in the Pacific than the British press gives the British public concerning their reverses. We admire the British because "they can take it." Doesn't the War Department think the Americans can take it? Every informed observer realizes that we have suffered more than "initial setbacks." This is proved by statements that we will take back Wake, Guam, Manila, etc., when we get going. Such remarks made after three weeks of "playing down" the reverses in Asia reveal the true nature of the situation. We are now being told that we didn't expect to hold the Philippines anyway. Yet there is ample reason to believe that we had depended strongly on a large air fleet in Hawaii to support our action in Asia. That air fleet has been noticeably missing in the support of Wake, Guam and Manila. This is also true of the sea fleet. Dispatches reported "80 Japanese transports and supplies ships off Luzon at dawn." What a target! Yet 250,000 Japanese landed on Luzon without interference from air or sea. American citizens understand the need of military secrecy over details of losses, positions and movements, but it is also important that the American public have complete confidence in its leaders. As General Hugh Johnson recently said, speaking in this vein, "While it is necessary to maintain such lack of information as might fool the enemy, we must not give the impression of trying to fool our people."

Winter and the Russo-German War

(Continued from first page)

depending solely on the personal loyalty he has built up. But the popular heroes of the German people have always been their generals and army officers. The generals and officers didn't want to go into Russia. Millions of German homes are now saddened by the loss of loved ones sacrificed in Russia for a plan that was futile and is now rolling back upon them. The German people know this. Will they continue blindly loyal to Hitler—or will they remember their generals who did not want to go into Russia? Of course, the Germans will rally and strike again. They must get more oil—soon. During World War I Germany showed her power to coil again and strike powerfully. Even in 1918, just a few months before the Germans collapsed, they appeared to threaten the Allies with defeat. New offensives must be expected and the Germans will win more victories, but there are many clear indications that the strain and cost of war is slowing up the Nazis pace. The debacle in Russia, the spread of typhus and other inevitable plagues, the growing dissension of defeat, the drag of despair and hopelessness will grip the German people doubly as America enters the war. All this and many other subtle evidences convince us the tide is turning.

God doesn't use tanks, bombers or machine guns, but God moves through the affairs of arrogant men, sadly watching them spin their puny patterns until they clash with the inevitable forces of nature and divinity. All the skill of Nazi military genius, after all, could not change the direction of the wind that blew across the plains of Kabysk. If the wind had come from the Crimea instead of the frozen northern plains, all could have gone according to the Nazi schedule, but a typhus bitten base is much more potent than ten thousand tanks. Will America lose sight of these things in our megalomania of war planning?

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